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TARGETED HIV/AIDS AND LABORATORY SERVICES - THALAS

The JCRC THALAS PROJECT

The Targeted HIV/AIDS and Laboratory Services (THALAS) Project is a five year program implemented through a cooperative agreement between USAID/Uganda and the Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC).

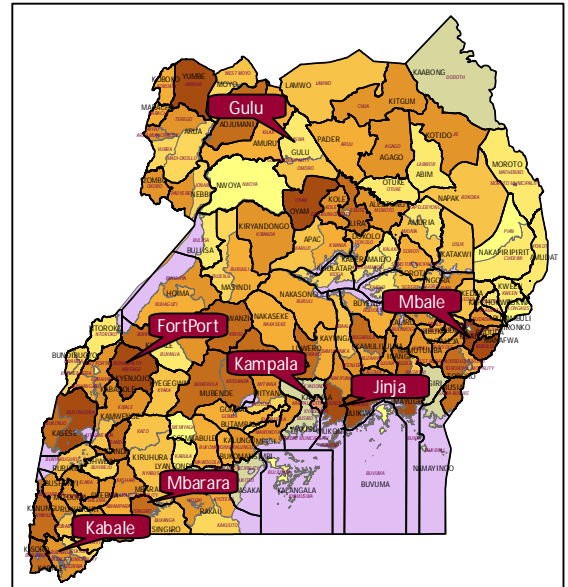
THALAS project will build on the successes of the TREAT program by focusing on maintaining quality HIV/AIDS care and treatment, laboratory, PMTCT and TB/HIV services. The Project will work closely with SUSTAIN project to specifically expand TREAT achievements in 11 Regional Referral hospitals, 13 district hospitals and JCRC Kampala clinic. THALAS Project will continue to provide integrated TB HIV/AIDS services to over 15,000 patients at JCRC Kampala, ensure smooth and seamless transition of 29 TREAT sites to SUSTAIN by end of year one and transition patients at RCEs by end of year two.

THALAS will continue to provide ART and laboratory services during the transition period to over 32,000 patients that are on ART from the TREAT program. THALAS will provide external quality assurance (EQA), coaching, mentoring and training for laboratories supported by SUSTAIN. THALAS will develop sustainability or exit strategy for continued provision of integrated TB/HIV/AIDS

Working closely with MOH, SUSTAIN project and the Regional referral hospitals, THALAS project will contribute to the achievement of the following 3 objectives;

- 1). Ensure the provision of HIV/AIDS care & treatment, laboratory, PMTCT and TB/HIV services within public regional referral and district hospitals
- 2). Enhance the quality of HIV/AIDS care & treatment, laboratory, PMTCT, and TB/HIV services at regional referral and district hospitals
- 3) Increase stewardship by MOH to provide sustainable quality HIV/AIDS care & treatment, laboratory, PMTCT and TB/HIV services within the public health system.

Districts covered by THALAS Project



JCRC established 6 Regional Centers of Excellence (RCEs) to ensure, rural areas have access to ART and comprehensive laboratory support. RCEs are strategically located in all regions in Uganda including; Mbale, Gulu, Fort Portal, Kabale, Mbarara and Kakira. RCEs work closely with the Regional Referral hospitals in their respective locations. RCEs laboratory services include ELISA, OI diagnosis, CD4s, DNA and RNA PCR and toxicity monitoring. RCEs are training facilities for health workers and provide QC for district hospitals. Close collaboration with MOH and NGOs such as Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF), PREFA and PMTCT partners has ensured the family is initiated into care at an early stage. Strengthening linkages with NGOs that provide education, food and shelter to OVCs has improved adherence to ART and quality of services.

KEY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- 1: Transitioning clients supported under TREAT to SUSTAIN and USAID supported district- based Partners.
- 2: Maintain current client base of 32,200 clients receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) with essential ART and laboratory services as required throughout the transition of existing clients serviced under TREAT to SUSTAIN and USAID supported district based partners
- 3: Provision of integrated TB/HIV/AIDS services at the Kampala site to estimated 6000 clients
- 4: Provision of specialized laboratory services through seven sites in Kampala, Gulu, Mbale, Kakira, Fort Portal, Mbarara and Kabale
- 5: Provide external quality assurance (EQA) and coaching, mentoring and training for laboratories supported by SUSTAIN
- 6: Develop sustainability or exit strategy for continued provision of integrated TB/HIV/AIDS services at the Kampala site

The Targeted HIV/AIDS and Laboratory Services (THALAS) is a five Year Project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Program. It was awarded in June 2010 to Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC) under Cooperative Agreement No. AID-617-A-10-00006.

The Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC) is a non-profit organization founded in 1991 to address and respond to the challenges of HIV/AIDS in Uganda.

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